

**Conservation Commission Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.
5:00pm**

Present: Members: Vice Chair Fred Leeder, John Hopf, Donald Littlefield, Marea Mott, and David Roosa. **Absent:** Chair Ned Phillips, Jr. and Les Slate. Also present was Administrative Assistant Teressa Chmiel for the recording of the minutes.

Call to Order

Vice Chair Fred Leeder called the meeting to order at 5:01p.m.

Island Enterprises Inc. Plat 8, Lot 84-6. Advisory to the Zoning Board for an Application for a Special Use Permit under Sections 113(B)(4) and 309(E) to create a twenty-seat restaurant in the barn to be open during the winter months.

David Houseman, business manager for the Spring House Hotel present. Mr. Houseman addressed the proposal of opening a winter restaurant in the lower level of the recently renovated barn. He discussed the following items with the Commission:

- An existing parking lot is in place.
- The Spring House Hotel is connected to Town water and sewer.
- “The Barn” meets all codes.
- The winter restaurant will seat 20 people.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion to send a favorable advisory to the Zoning Board of Review for Island Enterprises, Inc. Plat 8, Lot 84-6 for an Application for a Special Use Permit under Sections 113(B)(4) and 309(E) to create a twenty-seat restaurant in the barn to be open during the winter months.

Ms. Mott seconded the motion.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Hopf, Littlefield and Roosa)
2 Absent (Phillips and Slate)

0 Nays

1506 Block Island, LLC. Plat 16, Lot 44-1. Advisory to the Zoning Board for an Application by Charles and Tobee McMellon for a Special Use permit under Section 306(E) and Section 406 and for a Variance from Sections 306(C) and 514(C)(2) for an addition to an existing single family dwelling.

No applicant was present. After a brief discussion the Commission was in consensus to send a favorable advisory.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion to send a favorable advisory to the Zoning Board of Review for an Application by Charles and Tobee McMellon for a Special use Permit under Section 306(E) and Section 406 and for a Variance from Sections 306(C) and 514(C)(2) for an addition to an existing single family dwelling.

Ms. Mott seconded the motion.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Hopf, Littlefield and Roosa) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Slate)

Discuss/Act on the Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission held a work session on November 19, 2013 to discuss proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Leeder proposed two additional updates to the plan: Sea Level Rise and Herbicides.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion to adopt the proposals from the November 19, 2013 work session and to include the following additions:

- Page 8 under “Planning Board initial comments;”
Add: Provisions to the Seal Level Rise
Plan for control of Herbicides and Pesticides

The motion was seconded by Mr. Leeder.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Hopf, Littlefield and Roosa) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Slate)

Mr. Hopf stated he will draft a memo regarding the activist agenda; as well as, research and draft a letter addressed to the Town Council regarding Sea Level Rise.

Correspondence:

Receipt of an email dated November 18, 2013 from Chris Warfel re: Sand Fencing.

The Commission is in receipt of photos from Chris Warfel regarding Sand Fencing on Charleston Beach. Terri Chmiel explained that Mr. Warfel installed sand fencing in a small section on Charleston Beach as a test area for burlap roping material. The photographs compared the area from May 2013 and recent photos taken in November 2013. Mr. Hopf pointed out that snow fencing keeps people off the dunes and from an aesthetic point of view the preference is for snow fencing. The Commission will consider using sand fencing on the west side of the island.

Receipt of a memorandum dated November 13, 2013 from Mike Shea to BIRA and Conservation Commission re: Snow Fencing.

The Commission is in receipt of a memo dated November 13, 2013 from Mike Shea regarding snow fencing. No action was needed.

Receipt of a document dated November 12, 2013 from RIDEM re: America the Beautiful-Tree Rhode Island 2014 Grants Program.

After discussion ensued the Commission was in agreement that due to the timeline the application process will not be possible this year. Mr. Leeder asked Terri Chmiel for a reminder in October 2014 as this is a yearly grant program.

Receipt of a Notice of Public Hearing dated November 8, 2013 from RIDEM re: RIDEM File Number: Block Island Transmission Systems DP-12-120; WQC 12-039.

The Commission is in receipt of a Notice of Public Hearing regarding RIDEM File Number: Block Island Transmission Systems DP-12-120; WQC 12-039. Mr. Leeder, as a private citizen will attend the hearing.

Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion to approve the 2014 annual meeting schedule as presented. The Conservation Commission will meet the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Road as follows:

January 14, 2014	July 8, 2014
February 11, 2014	August 12, 2014
March 11, 2014	September 9, 2014
April 8, 2014	October 14, 2014
May 13, 2014	November 11, 2014
June 10, 2014	December 9, 2014

Mr. Leeder seconded the motion.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Hopf, Littlefield and Roosa)	0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Slate)	

Approval of Minutes.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion seconded by Mr. Leeder to approve the minutes from November 12, 2013 as presented.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Hopf, Littlefield and Roosa)	0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Slate)	

Mr. Leeder made a motion seconded by Mr. Littlefield to approve the minutes from November 19, 2013 work session as presented.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Hopf, Littlefield and Roosa)	0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Slate)	

Adjournment.

A meeting with DEM to discuss deer reduction will be held at the school on December 10, 2013 at 6:00pm. Martha Ball sent an email informing the Commission of pallets on Mansion Beach.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm in a motion by Mr. Hopf and seconded by Ms. Mott.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Hopf, Littlefield and Roosa)	0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Slate)	

Respectfully submitted

Teressa L. Chmiel

Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved: January 14, 2014